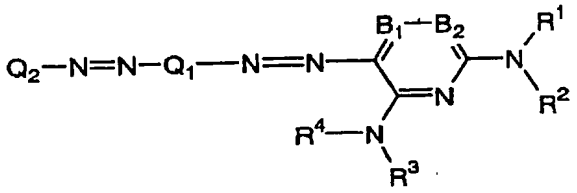
What is claimed is:

1. An optical information-recording medium comprising:

a support; and

a recording layer capable of recording information by laser beam exposure,

wherein the recording layer contains a dye represented by the following formula (I):



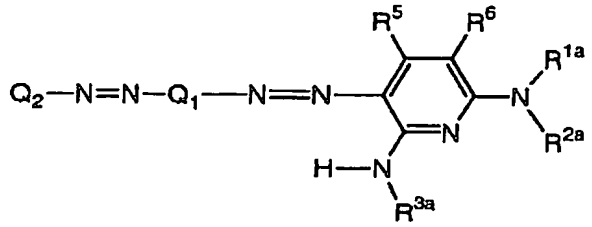
(I)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; B_1 and B_2 represent $=CR^5-$ and $-CR^6=$ respectively, or one of B_1 and B_2 represents a nitrogen atom and the other represents $=CR^5-$ or $-CR^6=$; R^5 and R^6 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; Q_1 represents a substituted or unsubstituted arylene group, or a substituted or unsubstituted divalent heterocyclic group; and Q_2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group.

2. The optical information-recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group,

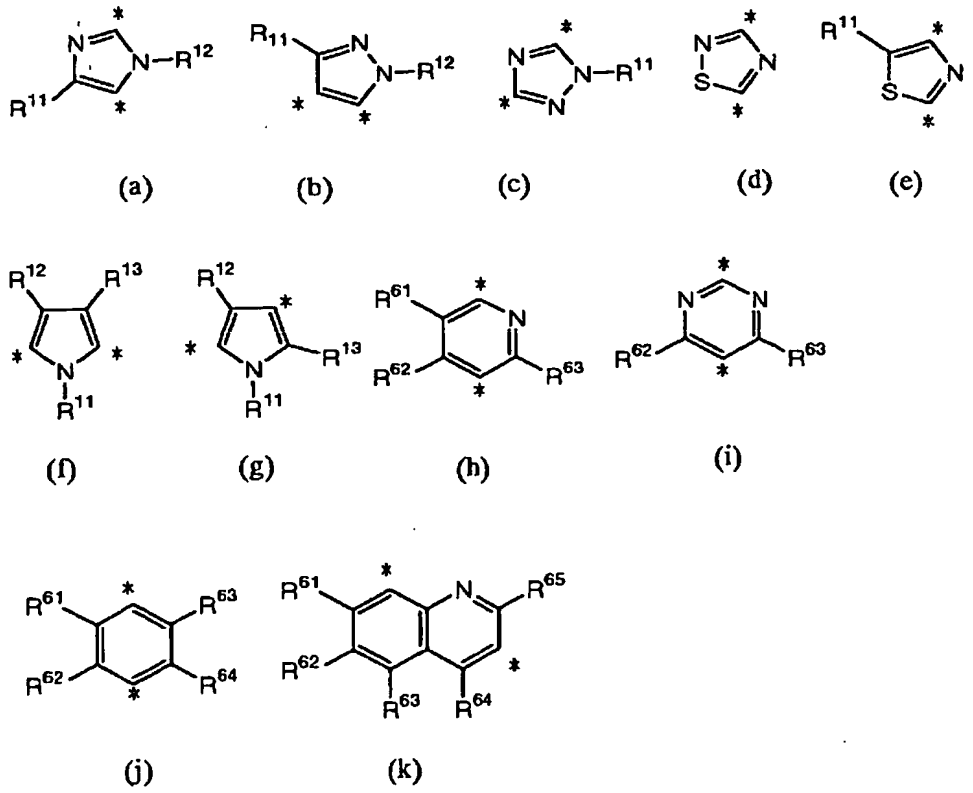
a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group.

3. The optical information-recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dye contained in the recording layer is represented by the following formula (II):



(II)

wherein R^{1a}, R^{2a} and R^{3a} each independently represent a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; R^5 and R^6 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent; Q_2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; and Q_1 represents a divalent linking group selected from the following formulae (a) to (k) having positions (*) that are linkable with the azo groups in formula (II) in any direction:



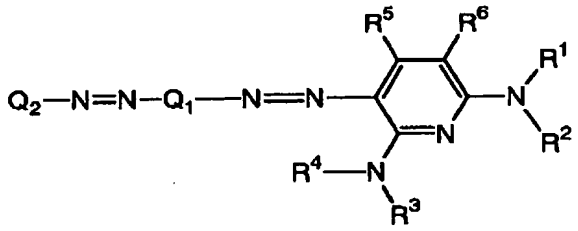
wherein R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{61}, R^{62}, R^{63}, R^{64} and R^{65} each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent.

4. An optical information-recording medium comprising:

a support; and

a recording layer capable of recording information by laser beam exposure,

wherein the recording layer contains a metal azo chelate dye comprising: a dye represented by the following formula (III); and at least one of a metal and a metal oxide:

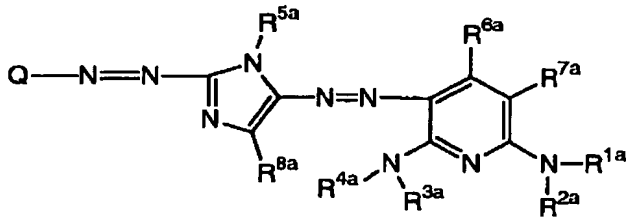


(III)

wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; R^5 and R^6 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; Q_1 represents a substituted or unsubstituted arylene group, or a substituted or unsubstituted divalent heterocyclic group; and Q_2 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group.

5. The optical information-recording medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein the recording layer including the dye has a refractive index (n) of $2.0<n<2.7$, and an extinction coefficient (k) of $0.03<k<0.10$.

6. A dye represented by the following formula (IV):

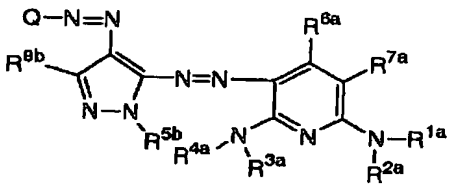


(IV)

wherein R^{1a}, R^{2a}, R^{3a}, R^{4a} and R^{5a} each independently represents

a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; R^{6a}, R^{7a} and R^{8a} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; and Q represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group.

7. A dye represented by the following formula (V):



(V)

wherein R^{1a}, R^{2a}, R^{3a}, R^{4a} and R^{5b} each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; R^{6a}, R^{7a} and R^{8b} each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent; and Q represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group.